



The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

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AUGUST 2017



Freedom in Service *The Christian Calling*

When asked to share my experience of ordination with you for this month's Lion there was a strong temptation for the piece to be a self indulgent private reflection; however the nature of the office and remit to which I have been called is anything but centred on the self. It is to be one of service and this was foremost in my mind when sent on retreat to Shallowford house before the ordination service that took place on 2nd July.

The very word 'Deacon' itself is taken from the Greek word 'Diakonos', it translates perfectly as servant. It is something of an uncomfortable word for the emerging millennial generation who are being raised on an enforced commitment to *égalité* the likes of which we have never quite seen before. I recall working at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham as a porter asking the secretary where I could contact my superior; her reply was terse and firm, "hunny nobody here or anywhere is your *superior*". Whilst one can appreciate her sentiments, the reply given by the secretary does reflect the knee jerk reaction we seem to feel when a given hierarchy is introduced to our lives. Who is it that claims to be my superior in life?

Leadership is seen to be collaborative more so than authoritative. There are surely many advancements that have been made with the introduction of this new model of leadership but when seeking to understand an orthodox Christian understanding of ministry, something can be missed by this new age liberal approach.

As part of the one true Catholic and Apostolic Church, we take from the disciples a threefold understanding of order or structure to Church offices starting with the 'diakonos' leading to the 'presbyteros' meaning *elder* from where we get our understanding of the word 'priest' before finally, at the top as it were, the 'episkopos' meaning *overseer* from which we take our meaning for the role of Bishop. All of these designations

are found in the book of Acts in which we encounter the emerging early Church, ordained by Christ in his great commission in Matthew 28.

Of course we are correct to recall the words of St. Paul in Galatians in which "*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*" This does reflect the equal footing that we so readily seek with such eagerness and it is of course true. Ourselves, the village rogue and the Archbishop of Canterbury will all stand before the throne of God as perfect equals, for there is one Lord over us all and his created cosmos; but for the Church, the body of Christ and in any role where vocation and calling are primary, the role of structure, order and discipline are self evidently necessary.

The Church of England is often in the news, albeit for the wrong reasons. With all the controversies surrounding female ordination or matters relating to homosexual marriage the Church is often overlooked for its wonderful way in which those in positions of responsibility are held accountable; something which can easily be overlooked when one considers the dreadful confusion and suspicion pertaining to the Grenfell tower disaster and the anger we all feel when no

one is easily identifiable as culpable for the shameful cost-cutting that seemed so apparent. Unlike the authorities and structures behind the Grenfell disaster, the Church has a clear understanding of who is responsible to whom and embedded within that is a distinct and purposeful delineation of roles and

responsibilities in which the lesser remits are answerable to the greater. Instead of regarding this structure as an affront to one's personal integrity, the Church recognises that these structures offer a method of accountability and system of growth that is seldom endorsed by many '*progressive*' business models of today.

As a deacon within the Church my role is one governed by one of servitude, instead of debating the modern ages concerns with the perceived injustices of service. There is as a deacon a distinct and tantalising opportunity to grow closer to Christ who himself came 'not to be served but to serve'. It is this servant hood that



Love. Grow. Serve.

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is offered to the deacon, clearly positioned within an ordered whole, that allows me and many others ordained this Petertide to grow closer to Christ, responsible to the Priest and Bishop but devoted to the people of God for whom the whole structure exists.

It is very tempting and understandable for a great many of us to feel a frustration with a perceived hierarchy insofar as it chides with our sense of equality yet there is a deep wisdom in this. It is a chance to learn, grow, serve and develop our God given potential and talents which we are all deeply imbued with. We are not all called to the ordained ministry but there are a great many lessons to be learned from the structures of the Church and some that I believe are greatly needed in this modern age; to find perfect freedom in absolute service, to be autonomous and yet accountable and to be called and known but to have your ultimate identity concealed within Christ.

This is no easy calling in life and we have no power to bear it in our own strength but by the grace of God alone.

I ask you to pray for me as I shall for you as my sisters and brothers in Christ so that we may all collectively and orderly work for the coming of the Kingdom belonging to the Prince of Peace.

Patrick

The CAMEO Luncheon Club is taking a break for the summer and so there will be no meetings on Wednesdays during August. Normal service will resume at 1.00pm on 13th September.

Diary Dates for August

2 nd	Wednesday	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Evening
5 th	Saturday	10.00am	First Sunday Revision Group
12 th	Saturday	2.30pm	Afternoon Tea (Church Hall)
15 th	Tuesday	2.00pm	Funeral

Early September

1 st	Friday	11.00am	Wedding
2 nd	Saturday	6.00pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
3 rd	Sunday	9.30am	Confirmations with +Geoff
6 th	Wednesday	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
9 th	Saturday	TBA	Wedding



Our next MESSY offering will be to give thanks for the harvest. Messy Church will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday, 30th September so please spread the word as widely as possible. Turn-out for the last

Messy Church was very disappointing so we need to raise its profile for Harvest.

Lutheran Partnership

This year's 'Anticipating Advent' service with our German brothers and sisters will take place over Advent weekend (30th November – 1st December) in Rostock.

Programme Overview:

- Fly to Hamburg (10h20 from Birmingham) and onward by train to Rostock
- Visit to the Minster of Bad Doberan and to Heiligendamm
- Presentation on the Reformation in this 500th Jubilee year
- Free time at Rostock's Christmas Market
- Choral Evensong in St. Mary's - Rostock
- Partnership, Anticipating Advent service in Rostock's University church
- Family worship in the church of St. Nikolai
- Organ recital in St. Mary's
- Return flight (13h25 from Hamburg)

There will be a choice of accommodation types; viz. with hosts in family homes or in small hotels. At the time of writing, the return flights with Flybe were available at £80.00 return including hand luggage and taxes.

Living Faith

Module III of the 'new-look' Bishop's Certificate will probably commence on Tuesday, 3rd October which will allow us to finish the course on 2nd December – just before the Christmas rush sets in. Though the commencement date is yet to be confirmed, the venue is confirmed as being St. Barnabas in Bradwell.

Worship Services during August

2 nd	Wednesday	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
6 th	Transfiguration	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Family Worship with HC
		4.30pm	Evensong
9 th	Mary Sumner	8.00am	Morning Prayer
13 th	9 th after Trinity	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Holy Communion
16 th	Wednesday	4.30pm	Evensong
		8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
20 th	10 th after Trinity (St. Bernard)	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.00am	Family Worship with Baptisms
		4.30pm	Holy Communion
23 rd	Bartholomew	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
		8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)
27 th	11 th after Trinity	10.00am	Holy Communion
		4.30pm	Evensong
		8.00am	Morning Prayer
30 th	John Bunyan	8.00am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)

August Activities

The month of August is relatively quiet with no CAMEO (which resumes on 13th September) and many other usual, mid-week activities suspended for the school holidays. Concerning usual activities, it's best to ask your group leaders for the details of what's running and what isn't.

Afternoon Tea

Come to our fund-raising afternoon tea with beetle drive on Saturday 12th August at 2.30pm. Entry will cost £3.00 per ticket. A raffle will be available on the day.